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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 919
By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to create an interagency task force to study issues relative to intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation (ICFs/MR).

WHEREAS, the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities is the state agency designated by the General Assembly as the state's mental health and developmental disability authority and is responsible for system planning, setting policy and quality standards, system monitoring and evaluation, for persons of all ages who have mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, or developmental disabilities; and

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WHEREAS, the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities' authority over private intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation (ICFs/MR) is limited to licensure; and

WHEREAS, the number of persons with mental retardation waiting for services, 2,600, has dramatically increased over the last five years; and

WHEREAS, the existing number of private ICF/MR beds, 668, has been capped for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, the system of supports and services has been undergoing significant changes over the last several years with the downsizing of state-operated ICFs/MR; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That an interagency task force be appointed to study:

1. Current rates for payment of costs in ICFs/MR and whether current methodology and procedures to establish such rates are appropriate and adequate to insure the lowest and most cost-effective services;
2. Administrative oversight of ICFs/MR facilities to assess adequacy of control to insure cost-effective service delivery and appropriate programmatic quality control;
3. The role of ICFs/MR in the overall system of services and supports, including admissions and discharges; and
4. The number of ICFs/MR beds needed in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall be composed of a representative from the Department of Finance and Administration, the Comptroller of the Treasury, the Department of Health, the TennCare Bureau, the Division of Mental Retardation Services, and the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities; The Arc of Tennessee consumer representative; and a representative from the ICF/MR provider

community to be selected by the Tennessee Network of Community Organizations. The task force shall elect its own chair, vice-chair, and any other officers it deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities shall convene the task force for organizational purposes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the 103rd General Assembly no later than February 15, 2003.